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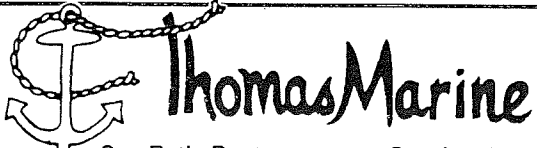


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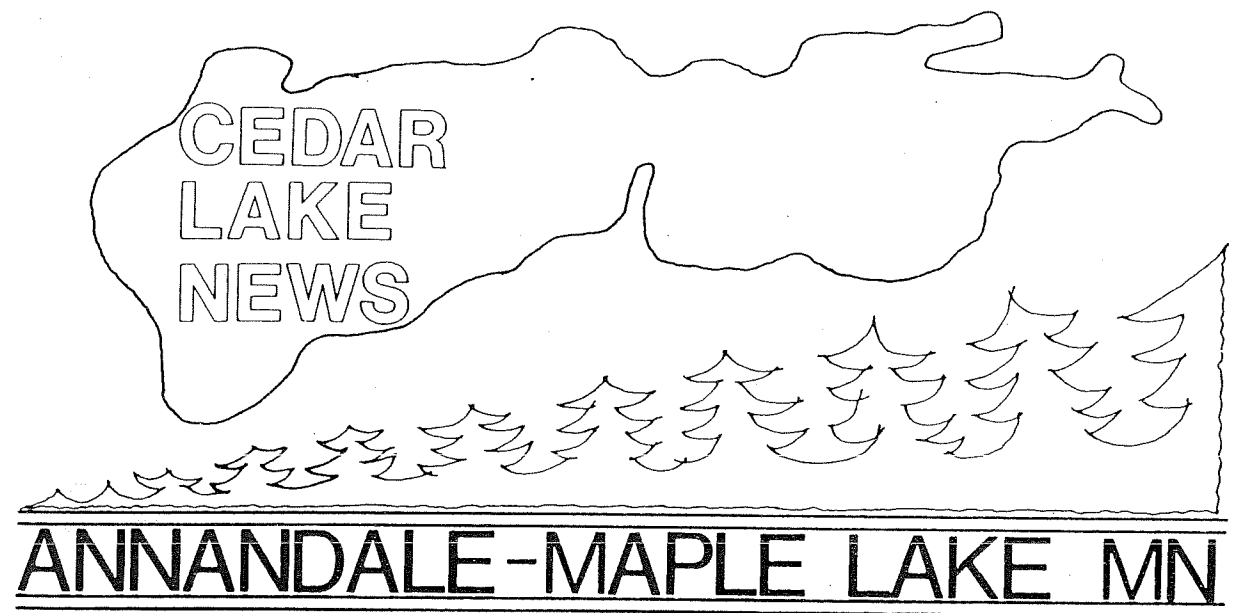
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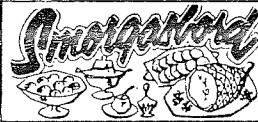
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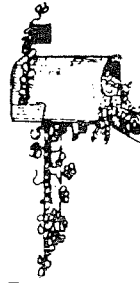
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1-800-652-9093

Persons in the Twin Cities Metro area may call **297-3999**

CEDAR LAKE NEWS
CEDAR LAKE CONSERVATION CLUB
P O BOX 192
ANNANDALE, MN 55302

VOLUME 12 NO. 5
JULY 1991

PRESIDENT: JAMES THERNELL

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EDITOR: SHIRLEY COOK PHONE NO. 561-6215 MPLS
963-5015 LAKE

* * * * *

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE CEDAR LAKE CONSERVATION CLUB ARE \$15.00 A YEAR PER FAMILY. IN 1991 \$7.00 OF THE DUES MONEY WILL AUTOMATICALLY GO INTO THE CEDAR LAKE MILFOIL ACCOUNT.

DUES\$15.00 PER YEAR - PER FAMILY

DUES HAVE BEEN COMING IN PRETTY FAIR THIS YEAR ..HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY FAMILIES STILL OWEING. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE PAID, LOOK FOR THE RED X ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. RED X MEANS YOU HAVE NOT PAID. DUE TO THE INCREASE IN POSTAGE IF YOU DO NOT PAY AFTER THIS ISSUE YOU WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE THE CEDAR LAKE NEW.

AT THE 1990 ANNUAL MEETING THE MEMBERS VOTED TO RAISE THE DUES TO \$15.00, \$8.00 GOING INTO THE GENERAL FUND AND \$7.00 GOING INTO A SPECIAL ACCOUNT TO HELP FINANCE CONTROL OF EURASIAN MILFOIL IF THE NEED ARISES AT CEDAR LAKE. THIS MONEY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR USE ON CEDAR LAKE ONLY. WE ALL KNOW IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE MILFOIL WILL PROBABLY BE FOUND IN CEDAR LAKE.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE CEDAR LAKE CONSERVATION CLUB
MAIL TO: PETER G COOK
5837 WASHBURN AVENUE NORTH
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55430

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING.....

THE OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE CEDAR LAKE CONSERVATION CLUB WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL OF YOU TO THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. THIS MEETING IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS AND VIEW POINTS REGARDING ISSUES THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON CEDAR LAKE. COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND MAKE NEW LONG LASTING FRIENDSHIPS.

DATE: AUGUST 10, 1991
PLACE: MAPLE LAKE V.F.W.
HIGHWAY 55 & MAPLE AVENUE NORTH
TIME: 5:30 P.M. SOCIAL HOUR
6:30 P.M. BUFFET DINNER
ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DINNER - ANYONE WISHING TO STAY AFTER THE MEETING ARE WELCOME
COST: \$8.50 PER PERSON - GUESTS ARE WELCOME

BAR SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE MAPLE LAKE V.F.W.
RESERVATION MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN AUGUST 3, 1991

THE CLUB MUST CONFIRM ALL RESERVATIONS. THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS MADE AFTER AUGUST 3, 1991 FOR CANCELLATIONS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW IMMEDIATELY AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE CEDAR LAKE CONSERVATION CLUB. MAIL THE CHECK AND FORM BELOW TO

PETER G. COOK, TREASURER
5837 WASHBURN AVENUE, NORTH
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55430

REMINDER .. THIS IS A CLUB FUNCTION - YOUR 1991 DUES MUST BE PAID (\$15.00)

NAME
ADDRESS
.....NUMBER ATTENDING.....

LOONS

IT HAS BEEN CALLED TO MY ATTENTION BY DON AND FRAN BADGER THAT WE HAVE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE IN HAVING TWO SETS OF LOONS NEST ON CEDAR LAKE - A SET AT EACH END OF THE LAKE. FROM ALL INDICATIONS EACH SET HAD ONE BABY SURVIVE. AS LONG AS ANYONE CAN REMEMBER WE USUALLY ONLY HAVE ONE SET OF LOONS.

PLEASE WHEN YOU ARE OUT BOATING TRY NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THE LOONS. SEVERAL TIMES I MYSELF HAVE HARD THE LOONS MAKING A LARGE RUMPUSTHEN I NOTICE EITHER A BOAT OR WATER BIKE TRYING TO GET AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE LEAVE THE LOONS ALONE.

* * * * *

MESSAGE TO OUR ADVERTISERS

WITH THIS ISSUE, ANOTHER VOLUME OF THE CEDAR LAKE NEWS WILL COME TO AN END. AGAIN WE THANK THE ADVERTISERS AND ASK THAT YOU PATRONIZE THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS. THE ADVERTISERS HAVE HELPED MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE. IT IS HOPED THAT THESE GOOD PEOPLE WILL AGAIN HELP MAKE VOLUME FOURTEEN A REALITY.
* * * * *

SWEATSHIRTS.....

THERE ARE A FEW GRAY HOODED SLIPON SWEATSHIRTS LEFT IN SIZES SMALL - MEDIUM - AND LARGE. THEY HAVE THE LAKE LOGO. THE COST IS \$16.00 EACH - FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SHIRLEY AT 561-6215 OR 963-5015

* * * * *

EXTRA DONATIONS.....

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER WAS PUBLISHED, WE WISH TO THANK THESE PEOPLE FOR THEIR "EXTRA" DONATION TO OUR EURASIAN MILFOIL FUND.....

- MR. & MRS. WILLIAM WESTOFF \$35.00
- MR. & MRS. H N ELSEN 5.00
- MR. & MRS. HENRY A. PRIEBE 5.00

A THANK YOU ALSO GOES OUT TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE PRIZE DRAWING AT THE SPRING GET-TOGETHER.

How fishing could go up in smoke

by James Marti

The opening of fishing season this month found thousands of Minnesotans enjoying the pleasures of fishing upon Minnesota's lakes.

Chances are that anglers' minds were far away from a small news item that appeared recently in the *Star Tribune* about the Minneapolis incinerator.

In the article, Hennepin County announced that one of the two burner units of the downtown incinerator had exceeded state standards for emission of mercury. The news was accompanied by assurances that these emissions pose no threat to public health.

Is the mercury pouring forth from the Hennepin County incinerator related to that in the fish, and if so, how? The answer is of critical interest to all Minnesotans who enjoy a dinner of freshwater fish, as well as those who depend upon fishing tourism for their livelihood.

The metal mercury is a well-known toxin. The effects of mercury poisoning in humans include neurological damage, muscle tremors and fetal abnormalities. Such poisoning can be cumulative: Compounds of mercury may build up in body tissues over years of low-level exposure. A common pathway for poisoning is the eating of mercury-tainted fish.

This is not abstract theory. We are now witnessing the widespread mercury contamination of sport fish throughout Minnesota and 19 other states. Indeed, this is the reason for the Health Department's fish advisories that warn anglers to limit their consumption of certain species from specified lakes.

In the report issued this month, the department advises against eating, more than once a week, the fish caught from 310 lakes throughout Minnesota solely because of mercury contamination. That's 310 out of 325 lakes tested, or 95 percent of the sample.

The U.S. Forest Service recently warned that 99 out of 100 lakes tested in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area the fish are too mercury-filled for some people to eat at all. The Forest Service also has issued a health advisory for all 2,000 lakes in the Superior National Forest, limiting consumption to no more than one meal a week.

These are chilling statistics for a state that prides itself on its pristine lakes and depends upon a healthy fishing tourism trade. It is a call to action, to identify the sources of the mercury contamination and to reduce them as quickly as possible.

The lakes with contaminated fish have no industry on their shores. Nor are natural sources of mercury playing a role here. It has been well established that the mercury in these lakes was deposited from the air.

This fact leads us back to incinerators. Solid waste incineration released over 74,000 pounds of

mercury to the air nationwide in 1988. The Hennepin County incinerator alone can release 730 pounds of mercury a year under its permit, even when its pollution control devices are working normally.

How much mercury does it take to drive a lake into the fish advisory zone? Less than half an ounce of mercury will do it for a small lake, even less for those lakes already marginal to begin with.

Mercury released from an incinerator can be transported great distances on the winds. Eventually, it will be deposited on watersheds and makes its way into lakes.

Once in the water, the mercury will be transformed by both biological and chemical means to a form easily taken up by living organisms. It then accumulates as it moves up the aquatic food chain. This bio-accumulation causes dangerous levels of mercury to appear in fish, even though the amount of air-borne mercury reaching the lake may have been minute.

There are two reasons why incinerators put out so much of this toxic metal. The first is that there is plenty of mercury in the municipal waste stream.

An obvious first step is to remove mercury from the trash entering incinerators, and we have made some progress in Minnesota toward this goal, especially in the area of battery collection.

But complete removal of mercury from the waste stream will come slowly, if at all, because our world remains littered with millions of items containing mercury, from common plastics to electronic equipment. No collection program exists for these items; much of this miscellany will make its way to an incinerator and act as a source of airborne mercury for years to come.

Note that if these materials are not incinerated, the mercury will stay bound up in a fairly inert matrix. By burning that matrix, an incinerator acts as a very effective machine for dispersing mercury into a large area.

The second reason behind high incinerator emissions is that mercury is difficult to catch with the pollution control devices now required. When trash containing mercury is incinerated, the mercury is not destroyed but vaporized.

Because most of the mercury does not condense, it cannot be captured by pollution control technology designed to catch particulates. The mercury vapor simply goes up the stack and is released.

Many Minnesota incinerators are equipped only with electrostatic precipitators, which are practically useless for capturing mercury. The EPA-recommended control technology, dry scrubbers and fabric filters, have proved only partially effective at capturing mercury in any of its chemical forms.

Better control technology does exist, such as multistage wet scrubbers and carbon absorption techniques. However, success at capturing mercury from the flue gases comes at the price of a

more hazardous ash product. The collected ash will be enriched in mercury that is highly bioavailable, making disposal difficult and expensive.

In addition, according to recent studies, the mercury in the ash pile will proceed to evaporate into the air on a time scale of weeks. If the ash is not properly handled, the mercury so painstakingly collected will escape to the air anyway!

Municipal solid waste incinerators are not the only sources of atmospheric mercury. Coal-burning power plants release large amounts of mercury naturally found in coal. Certain chemical industries also contribute to the problem.

In order to reverse rising mercury contamination, these other sources must be retrofitted with state-of-the-art mercury control devices.

However, solid waste incinerators deserve special attention because they are the nation's fastest-growing source of atmospheric mercury.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, they now account for about 25 percent of mercury emissions to the atmosphere. This contribution is sure to grow over the next decade as many more planned municipal incinerators come on line.

No matter what the source of control technology, the truth is that we have simply exhausted the environment's ability to absorb mercury after years of releases. Each and every microgram of mercury allowed into the air will help push more lakes throughout the state onto the fish advisory list.

We have an environmental, economic and public health crisis brewing in this state, as fish and lake ecosystems become increasingly contaminated with mercury.

The health of the sport fishing industry in Minnesota is being threatened in no uncertain terms. Mercury levels in lakes and in fish will continue to increase unless drastic reductions are made in mercury emissions to the air.

We must act to reduce mercury emission from all sources, particularly solid waste incineration.

We must continue to remove mercury from the waste stream, end the practice of burning waste which so efficiently disperses mercury into a dangerous form, and devote our ingenuity and resources to alternatives to incineration, particularly waste reduction and recycling.

Above all, we must abandon the nonsense claiming that high mercury emissions do not threaten the public health.

If we continue to deny the link between emissions at municipal incinerators and the public health threat of tainted fish, Minnesotans may soon spend the spring eagerly awaiting the opening day of catch-and-release season.

For more information, contact:
Timothy Smalley, Boat & Water Safety
(612) 296-3310

**TEENS NEED PERMIT TO OPERATE
MOTORBOATS OVER 24 HORSEPOWER**

Youths ages 13 through 17 need a Minnesota Watercraft Operator's Permit to run a motorboat of more than 24 horsepower without an adult on board, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Some parents aren't familiar with the requirement, said Tim Smalley, DNR boating safety specialist. "Although the program has been in effect since the early 1970s, there are still moms and dads who aren't aware of the legal requirements," Smalley said.

Children under 13 may not operate a motorboat over 24 horsepower without someone who is at least 18 years old on board. "Once people reach their 18th birthday, they no longer need a permit or an adult on board," Smalley noted.

"We are finding that young people who have taken a boating course are less likely to be involved in a boat accident in later life, and our home study course is a relatively painless way to do that," Smalley said.

Smalley said some adults also complete the DNR course to take advantage of discounts offered by many insurance companies to those who have completed watercraft safety training.

Many of the new personal watercraft (commonly called jet skis or water scooters) have motors over 24 horsepower, Smalley said. That means that teens 13 through 17 years old need a permit to operate these craft without an adult on board.

"Judging by the number of complaints we receive about personal watercraft, it appears that many of the operators have had little or no instruction in boating safety or watercraft courtesy," Smalley said. "We highly recommend that water scooter operators take some sort of training beyond the usual 'here's the keys. Let's go!'"

Several manufacturers recommend that no one under age 16 operate a water scooter without an adult aboard. "Testing done by some marine patrol agencies casts doubt upon the ability of younger teens to handle water scooters in an emergency," Smalley said.

Minnesotans who want a free copy of the home study boating course should contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Boat and Water Safety Section, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4046. Telephone (612) 296-3310, or call toll free in Minnesota 1-800-652-9747 and ask for DNR Boat and Water Safety.

NEW RULES REGARDING WATER SCOOTERS
WENT INTO EFFECT JULY 1ST - LETS
START ABIDING BY THE NEW LAWS
MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING

MINNESOTA SONGBIRDS IN DECLINE

Part 1 of 8

Scarlet Tanager

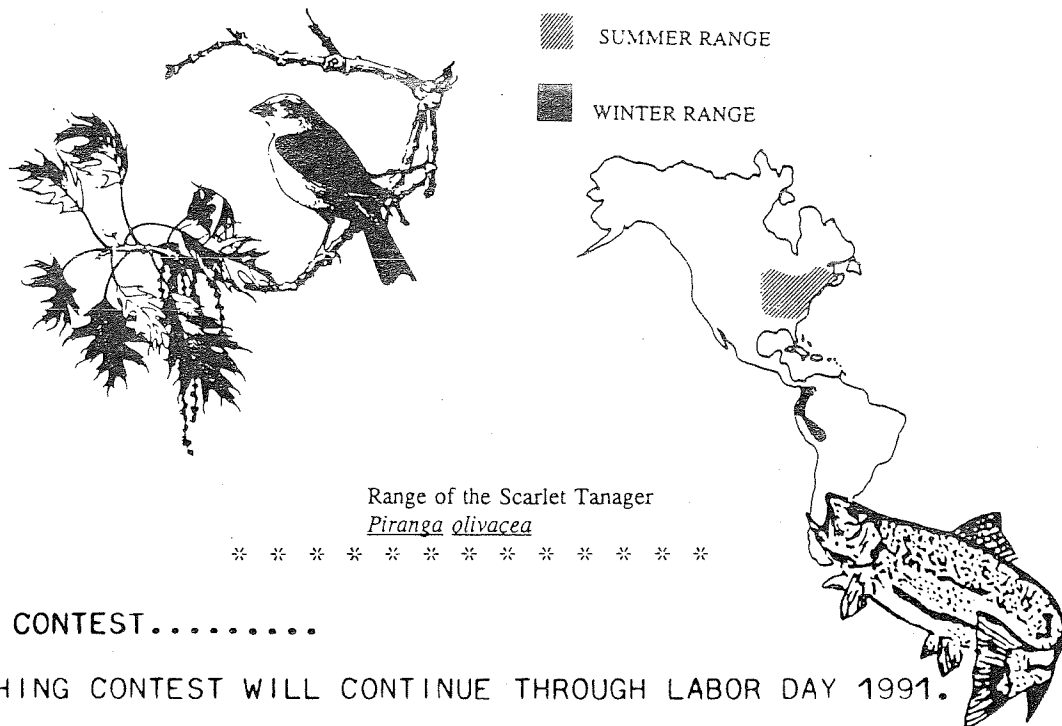
One of Minnesota's beautiful woodland songbirds, the scarlet tanager, is undergoing a serious decline. Biologists John R. Sauer and Sam Droege from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have reported that national breeding bird counts of scarlet tanagers have declined from 1978 through 1988 at a rate of 3.2 percent per year.

The scarlet tanager is easily identified by its crimson red body and black wings. It nests throughout the woodland regions of Minnesota and is especially common in oak forests.

Scarlet tanagers winter in the northeastern regions of South America, including forested mountains of Colombia, Equador, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil.

The reason for the decline of the scarlet tanager is unknown. There could be problems with habitat loss, nest parasitism by cowbirds, or loss of wintering habitat in South America.

Donations to the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff on state tax forms are needed to provide better monitoring and surveys for songbirds so biologists can identify their survival problems and plan for better habitat management in the future.



Range of the Scarlet Tanager
Piranga olivacea

* * * * *

FISHING CONTEST.....

THE FISHING CONTEST WILL CONTINUE THROUGH LABOR DAY 1991.

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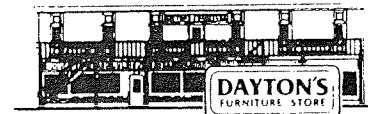
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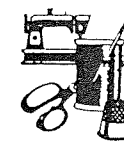
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